REMARKS

1. Claims Amendments.

The claims have been amended to clarify the invention. No new matter has been added.

Claims 11, 21, 33, 37, and 40 have been clarified to include the step of verifying the updated information. Support for this clarification can be found in the Specification on page 8, line 22 through page 9, line 21

Claims 16-20, 22-23, and 36 have been amended to correct an antecedent basis issue.

No new matter has been entered in any of these amendments.

2. Claims 11-33, 36, 37, 39 and 40 are not Anticipated under 35 USC §102 by US Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0047347 A1 to Perell

Claims 11-33, 36, 37, 39 and 40 have been rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by US Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0047347 to Perell (Perell '347). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

To properly anticipate Applicant's invention, as claimed, under 35 USC §102, each and every element of the claim in issue must be found, "either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Orthokinetics, Inc. v. Safety Travel Chairs, Inc.*, 1 USPQ2d 1081 (Fed. Cir. 1986); *see also verdegall Bros. V. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The absence of even one element in the claim in issue from the cited prior reference negates anticipation. *See Atlas Powder Co. v. E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co.*, 224 USPQ2d 409 (Fed Cir. 1984). Anticipation was intended to apply in this limited situation in which one prior art reference incorporates ***all*** of the elements of a claim in a subsequent invention because the nonobvious standard was intended to cover broader obvious leaps from a reference to a claim or from combined references to a claim. *See Titanium Metals Corp. v. Brenner*, 227 USPQ 773 (Fed. Cir. 1985). Thus, in a proper anticipation analysis, each limitation in each claim must be compared against a single reference.

Perell '347 does not disclose a method or system in which updated data is ***verified or automatically verified*** against other information from another source. The inherent distinction between an employment seeking situation and a potential employer interested in finding out as much information about the potential employee as possible or available so as to make an informed hiring decision and retention situation is that a current employer is interested in finding out whether the current employee has maintained her credentials. Not surprisingly, this verification step is not disclosed by Perell '347 as Perell '347 discloses a job bank or career matching system and not a credentialing system.

As such, the present invention is not disclosed by Perell '347 as Perell '347 does not disclose or teach a method for providing current updated and verified credential information:

- Regarding the ongoing and continued employment of an individual
- Initially obtaining the credential information about the individual on a predetermined periodic basis from the individual and from a combination of information sources
- Obtaining updated credential information from the information sources and replacing predated credential information contained in the database with updated information
- Verifying the updated information
- Continually providing the updated information to interested parties.

These distinctions, one or more of which are contained in each of the independent claims of the present patent application, make the present invention patentably distinct from Perell '347.

For the above reasons, Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw the grounds for rejection and find the pending claims allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the patent application and the claims are in condition for allowance and requests such action.

If the examiner has any final questions or concerns prior to allowance, please have the examiner contact the below signed attorney of record at his new contact information.

Respectfully submitted,
POWELL GOLDSTEIN LLP

By: Laurence P. Colton
Reg. No. 33,371

POWELL GOLDSTEIN LLP
1201 West Peachtree Street, NW
Fourteenth Floor
Atlanta GA 30309-3488

Tel: 404.572.6710
Fax: 404.572.6999
E-Mail: patents@pogolaw.com